

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's Amendment filed on 4/28/2009 has been entered with amended claims 1, 10, 16, 26, 34-37 and cancelled claims 2-9, 11-15, 17-25 and 27-33. In this Office Action, claims 1, 10, 16, 26, 34-37 are pending.

Specification

2. Applicant's arguments in Remarks section, page 8, lines 18-30 and Specification amendment filed on 6/30/2005 will be entered as it has been a part of original claims. The claims rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph is withdrawn.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. James P Janniello on 6/18/2009 (see Examiner Initiated Interview Summary).

4. **Claims:** Replace amended lines 1-4 on record for claims 36 and 37 with the following:

Claim 36. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer readable storage medium comprising one or more programs which when executed implement the steps of~~having computer readable code means embodied thereon, the computer readable program code means comprising:~~

Claim 37. (Currently Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

a computer readable storage medium comprising one or more programs which when executed implement the steps of~~having computer readable code means embodied thereon, the computer readable program code means comprising:~~

Reasons for allowance

5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

- Prior art of record does not teach or suggest or render obvious the claimed limitations in combination with the specific added limitations as recited in independent claims 1, 10, 16, 26, 34-37. The prior art of record fails to teach or suggest in combination of claimed elements including "the measure is a dot product measure defined (by the formula listed in the claim) where **q** is a vector comprises scores from the query stack and **d** is a vector comprising scores from the document stack" as recited in independent claims 1, 34 and 36; "each stack is not constrained to words in a vocabulary, wherein each of the words in a query stack or document stack are comprised of a number of n-grams, wherein probabilities are determined for each n-gram of the query stack and document

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stack, and wherein the probabilities of the n-grams are used in the measure” as recited in independent claims 10, and 16; and “configuring a handwriting recognizer into a first configuration to create the first handwriting recognizer, and configuring the handwriting recognizer into a second configuration to create the second handwriting recognizer, wherein the first and second configuration are different, wherein the first configuration comprises a configuration caused by selecting a constraint from the group consisting essentially of an uppercase letter constraint, a lowercase letter constraint, a recognize digits constraint, a language constraint, a constraint wherein characters and words are recognized only if in a vocabulary, and a constraint wherein characters and words are hypothesized when not in a vocabulary, and wherein the second configuration comprises a configuration caused by selecting a constraint from the group consisting essentially of an uppercase letter constraint, a lowercase letter constraint, a recognize digits constraint, a language constraint, a constraint wherein characters and words are recognized only if in a vocabulary, and a constraint wherein characters and words are hypothesized when not in a vocabulary” as recited in independent claims 26, 35 and 37.

6. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sathyanarayan Pannala whose telephone number is (571) 272-4115. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Rones can be reached on (571) 272-4085. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Sathyanarayan Pannala/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2164

srp
July 9, 2009